Russian co-operation for Kudankulam Plant

1907. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia and India have signed a contract for delivery of major equipment for construction of the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the construction would be completed; and

(c) the details of further developmental programmes for the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement is for supply of equipment for a nuclear power project (2×1000 MW) being set up at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in co-operation with Russian Federation. The targeted dates of completion of the project are December 2007 for Unit-1 and December 2008 for Unit-2.

(c) For the present, construction of only two units of 1000 MW each are approved by the Government of India. Infrastructural works at site for these units are nearing completion.

Nuclear Power Plant at Kudankulam

1908. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up $3 billion nuclear power plant at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether some activists are protesting against this project claiming that the nuclear waste from this plant would affect health of the people of the surrounding area; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Construction works or setting up of Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant (2 units of 1000 MWe each), has commenced.

(b) and (c) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd./Department of Atomic Energy (NPCIL/DAE) is giving due regard to the public opinion and their concerns on the implementation of the project and taking appropriate steps to dispel the fears about the safety of the plant from the minds of the people. The reactors proposed for Kudankulam project fall in the category of advanced reactors being developed by the Western European Countries and Japan. It has got the most modern safety features in-built in the design to avoid any risk of radiation hazard to the public. The plant will be implemented in strict conformity to all the applicable regulations and norms of the State/Central regulatory authorities like Pollution Control Boards and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). In addition, public and social activists are being kept informed, through "Public Awareness Programmes", with a view to allaying their possible fears regarding safety of operations.

Uranium reserves in Chhattisgarh

†1909. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are indications of availability of high quality uranium reserves in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that availability of the huge reserves of uranium has been confirmed in Janjgir, Champa and Bastar district of the State as per the survey of the Central Atomic Mineral Department; and

(c) if so, by when mining of these uranium reseves is proposed to be taken up?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.